queer&inspired

the pleasure issue

a zine to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community

created by ash

Letter from the Creator

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking the time to read ‘queer&inspired’, a zine that intends to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. This issue is all about pleasure, how we may define that for ourselves, and the people, businesses, artists and creatives encouraging us to take the time to ask ourselves, what does pleasure mean to me?

Thanks for reading.

xx,
ash

words from the wise:
quotes about pleasure and joy

“You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.”
-Mary Oliver

“Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people
out of themselves for a few hours.”
-Elton John

“Before I die, I want to be somebody’s favorite hiding place, the place they can put everything they know they need to survive, every secret, every solitude, every nervous prayer, and be absolutely certain I will keep it safe. I will keep it safe.”
-Andrea Gibson

“we have been taught to fear the very things that have the potential to set us free”
-Alok Vaid-Menon

“I've learnt some Things. Like the way friendship can be just as intense, beautiful and endless as romance. Like the way there's love everywhere around me - there's love for my friends, there's love for my paintings, there's love for myself.”
-Alice Oseman, Loveless

what's got me feeling queer&inspired this month?

the thing that has me feeling queer&inspired this month is **Crush: a pop-up sex shop in the Hudson Valley.** this pop-up shop was founded by Rachel G., a sex educator and doula who I am honored to know as a friend.

what inspires me most about this business is that Rachel is dedicated to connecting with, supporting, healing and teaching her local queer and trans community. she is creating a space where people can buy lube, toys and vibrators of trusted quality, while also having someone to connect with to ask questions, and feel accepted while knowing no kink will be judged and no body will be shamed.

feeling queer&inspired by Crush? **give them a follow on Instagram @ crushsxshop.** even if you can't make it to one of their pop-up events, their social media content might just be the sex positive corner of the internet you never knew you needed. plus if any fun new things are announced (like an online shop), you'll be the first to know!

other cool queer-owned businesses to support:

for candles: The New Savant

for tea: Friday Afternoon Tea

for beauty: Noto Botanics

for snacks: Pipcorn

for clothing & accessories: The Peach Fuzz

self-love playlist, featuring LGBTQIA+ musicians

Shinin' - Kim Petras

I'm Still Standing - Elton John

We Got the Fire - Katie Day

Man Enough to Be a Woman - Jayne County

Collapsed In Sunbeams - Arlo Parks

Pearls - Dua Saleh

Keep Your Wheels Straight - Laura Jane Grace

D&D + Asexuality - Skull Puppies

found my friends - Hayley Kiyoko

All I Have to Give the World is Me - Tegan and Sara

Faith Healer - Julien Baker

AM I DREAMING - Lil Nas X

STAR (Survival) - Ana Roxanne

Alive - Alfie Arcuri

Lemon Boy - Cavetown

movies to watch for valentine's day

But I'm A Cheerleader

Love, Simon

Portrait of a Lady on Fire

Fire Island

Imagine Me & You

Crush

The Thing About Harry

Carmilla (web series + movie)

…and anti-valentine's day

Bit

I Saw the TV Glow

Thank you for reading :)